



Work has been going on in Killian Court for the past several days in preparation for President Reif's inauguration ceremony. There are special events this entire week culminating in the presidential inauguration on Friday.

ARTHUR PETRON—THE TECH

# Peer2Peer hopes to start next semester

## 24 hour email-based support program will cater to MIT students

By Janelle Mansfield  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Two years ago, MIT's long-running Nightline phone service shut down, leaving the campus without an organized peer-to-peer support system. However, an anonymous email-based program, Peer2Peer, is tentatively expected to start operating next semester.

Like Nightline, Peer2Peer will be staffed by MIT students and is intended to be a "safety net" where students can turn when they feel overwhelmed, and a potential "gateway to other student support services," as Peer2Peer student coordinators Tzipora R. Wagner '12 and Isabella S. Lubin '13 put it. Lubin said that when students feel stressed or overwhelmed, "a lot of them don't feel comfortable reaching out to Mental or Medical for the first step," or that they might have a concern that is best addressed by a fellow student. This is where Peer2Peer comes into play. It will be an outlet for Institute-induced stress — a "safeguard against feeling alone," said Evan Waldheter, one of the doctors from MIT Mental Health who works on the program.

Although Peer2Peer is similar to the previous Nightline service with respect to its volunteer staff and peer-based support services, the similarities end there. "We are not trying to reopen Nightline. This is a service that has been built from the ground up," said Wagner.

Peer2Peer hopes to increase student usage from that of Nightline using what Wagner calls the "low barrier" email platform. Rheinila Fernandes, also from MIT Mental Health, notes some students may feel more comfortable communicating online rather than via phone call. "The main objective is just to increase accessibility to students who may not otherwise feel comfortable reaching out," said Waldheter.

Peer2Peer will also operate 24/7 thanks to the online model. According to Wagner, Peer2Peer student volunteers will spend "two to three hours a week answering emails" at any time of the day, and students who write to Peer2Peer can expect an answer within a few hours. Students interested in volunteering can email [peer2peer@mit.edu](mailto:peer2peer@mit.edu) for more information.

Peer2Peer, Page 6

# Sorority women prohibited at frat rush

## National Panhel Conference forbids affiliated women to be 'rush girls'

By Jiaming Zeng  
and Tushar Kamath

The National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) recently passed a regulation restricting sorority women from participating in fraternity Rush events. This especially restricts sorority members from be-

ing "Rush girls," friends of the house that help out with events during Rush.

Some fraternities' members believed the policy changed the atmosphere of Rush compared to previous years. Nathan M. Robert '13, a brother of Phi Sigma Kappa, appealed to the NPC, stating that many of the

sorority sisters are close friends to the fraternity. He added that preventing the sisters from participating in Rush events "presents an incorrect view of [the] house for potential members."

The NPC took a hard stance against Robert's complaint, citing the Unanimous Agreement X (UA X), a new restriction in-

tended to protect sororities' single-sex status. The UA X forbids the participation of Panhellenic women "in auxiliary groups to men's fraternities" and especially participation in men's formal Rush events. The UA X exists to divide men's

Rush girls, Page 8

# Sororities give out 173 bids

## Panhel condenses period of 'active' Recruitment, says process & changes well-received by all parties

By Kath Xu  
STAFF REPORTER

MIT's Panhellenic Association offered 173 bids this year, the same number as last year. Alpha Phi and Kappa Alpha Theta gave out the most bids, with 37 each. Recruitment saw a slight increase in the number of registrants this year, with 350 students registered for the first day. Students who registered and stayed throughout Recruitment went through a five day process, with three days dedicated to mutual selection and ranking sororities at the end of the day.

The Tech has contacted the MIT Interfraternity Council (IFC) for bid numbers, but as of the deadline for this article, they have not responded with statistics on the results of Rush.

### Reactions from students

"My favorite part was getting to meet so many cool people and seeing what the sororities were really about," said Christina K. Bray '16, who participated in Recruitment. "It's a lot easier to learn about them by talking to people

Sorority recruitment, Page 13

### SORORITY RECRUITMENT 2012

**173 BIDS**

**ΑΦ 37**

**ΚΑΘ 37**

**ΣΚ 36**

**ΑΧΩ 33**

**ΠΒΦ 30**



ELIJAH MENA—THE TECH

Anne E.C. McCants and William D. McCants will serve as the new housemasters of Burton-Conner this year.

# BC gets new housemasters

## The McCants family returns to dorm row

By Rachel Agyemang

Burton-Conner #111, the housemasters' apartment, has new residents. On Aug. 31, the new housemasters, history Professor Anne E.C. McCants and her husband, William D. "Bill" McCants, a senior attorney with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education, moved into their new home. They follow Professor Merrit Roe Smith and Bronwyn M. Mellquist, who stepped down after eight years.

The McCants are no strangers to dorm row. They served for 10 years as the housemasters for Green Hall starting in 1992 when it was a graduate women's dorm. In 2002, when Simmons Hall first opened, the McCants were expected to assume the role of housemasters there,

BC housemasters, Page 14

## RLAD PROCESS NOT A FAILURE

A rebuttal to The Tech's August 31 editorial.  
**OPINION, p. 4**

## POLLING THE NATION

Yost's update on the State of the Race.  
**OPINION, p. 4**

## SERVICE AND COMMUNITY

How sorority life led me to Oak Ridge, TN.  
**CAMPUS LIFE, p. 10**



## HAVING A BALL

Highlights from the MIT Ballroom Dance Concert.  
**PHOTO, p. 9**

## SPORTS SHORTS!

Check out a quick recap of some MIT events this week.  
**SPORTS, p. 16**

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Opinion . . . 4  
Campus Life . . . 10  
Fun Pages . . . 11  
Sports . . . 16

## Bomb threat against Louisiana campus spurs evacuation

Thousands of people were evacuated from the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge on Monday after a telephoned bomb threat, the fourth such evacuation on a college campus in four days.

The threat to LSU was called in to the 911 dispatcher for East Baton Rouge Parish at 10:32 a.m., and the campus was evacuated within an hour, said Herb Vincent, a spokesman for the university.

“No specifics given, but we deemed it necessary to evacuate,” he said, adding that although the school has 29,000 students enrolled, it was difficult to say how many were on campus.

The authorities were still searching buildings late Monday but were allowing people into residential buildings and dining facilities, which had been cleared.

On Friday, bomb threats were called in to three other colleges around the country, including the University of Texas at Austin. In all three cases, campus wide evacuations were ordered, police officers conducted sweeps, and students, faculty and staff returned hours later.

The FBI is investigating whether the threats are related, a bureau spokesman in Washington said.

—Campbell Robertson and Manny Fernandez  
The New York Times

## Financial strains threaten Palestinian authority

JERUSALEM — As the Palestinian Authority marks the 19th anniversary this month of the signing of the Oslo Accords, the agreement with Israel that brought it into existence, the authority is facing a financial crisis that experts say could threaten its future operations and stability.

The International Monetary Fund said last year that the Western-backed authority had built the institutions and sound fiscal policies for running the economy of a future state.

Oussama Kanaan, the fund’s mission chief for the West Bank and Gaza, said in an interview that on that count, nothing had changed.

But there is no state in sight and the Oslo Accords, which were meant as interim arrangements giving the Palestinians limited self-rule, have stretched on for nearly two decades, perpetuating what critics say are conditions that are now limiting economic development.

The authority needs \$400 million in immediate assistance to cover a gap in its 2012 budget and at has been confronted with growing public outrage over austerity measures and steep price increases driven largely by outside forces.

—Isabel Kershner, The New York Times

# UN reports sharp jump in attacks on Syrian civilians

By Hwaida Saad  
and Nick Cumming-Bruce  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT — With the Syrian conflict reported to be spilling into the Lebanese border area on Monday, U.N. investigators said civilians were bearing the brunt of indiscriminate air and ground assaults in the fighting over the future of President Bashar Assad.

The report was presented to the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva by Paulo Pinheiro, the Brazilian investigator leading a U.N. commission of inquiry. Pinheiro said that there had been a sharp escalation in indiscriminate attacks by government forces against civilians, and that the commission had collected “a formidable and extraordinary body of evidence”

against those responsible.

The report, completed last month, said that both anti- and pro-government forces had committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. Pinheiro said that the evidence, including names of people and units, could support action by national or international courts.

A report released on Monday by Human Rights Watch, based in New York, raised further concerns about rights abuses by anti-government fighters. The group documented 12 cases of extrajudicial or summary executions by groups linked to the opposition, including four killings in the town of Haffa by members of the Ansar Mohammed battalion.

Battalion members told the rights group that after storming a

police station there in June, they killed two snipers on the roof. The fighters, referring to an opposition group of army defectors known as the Free Syrian Army, explained that “everyone saw that they had been shooting at us and killing FSA fighters, so there was no need for a trial.”

Underscoring the reach of the conflict and its regional perils, Lebanon’s Ministry of Information said that the Syrian Air Force raided an area near the Syrian-Lebanese border at about noon on Monday, but there were no reports of casualties. The raid lasted for about three minutes, the ministry said in a statement.

The attack near the Lebanese border town of Ersal lasted about three minutes, the Ministry of Information said.

## Truth panel in Thailand says conflicts are festering

By Poypiti Amatatham  
and Thomas Fuller  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BANGKOK — An independent commission set up by the Thai government to investigate deadly clashes in Bangkok two years ago warned Monday that conflicts in Thai society were still simmering and that the country risked another “escalation to violence.”

The Truth for Reconciliation Commission of Thailand released a

351-page report that laid blame for the more than 90 deaths in Bangkok in 2010 on both the powerful military and a shadowy group of militants, known as black shirts, who hid among protesters.

“We found the use of weapons of war by officials to control the crowd,” Somchai Homlaor, a member of the commission, said at a briefing in Bangkok on Monday.

The black shirts “cooperated and gained support” from some protesters, Somchai said, and had sophis-

ticated weapons.

In one of the most anticipated findings, the commission said Khattiya Sawatdiphol, a renegade general who sided with the protesters, was assassinated by a sniper most likely located in a building controlled by the authorities. The shooting of Khattiya, who was popularly known as Seh Daeng, led to spasms of violence on the streets of Bangkok. He was shot while being interviewed by a reporter for The New York Times.

McKinsey&Company



## Global Leaders Start Here

### Energy Event

Thursday, September 20  
56 - 114  
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

### Career Fair

Friday, September 21  
Johnson Athletic Center - 2nd Floor  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### Application Deadline

Sunday, September 23 at 11:59 p.m.  
[www.mckinsey.com/usschools](http://www.mckinsey.com/usschools)

[www.mckinsey.com/careers](http://www.mckinsey.com/careers)



# US files trade case against China over cars

By Keith Bradsher  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING — The United States on Monday filed a broad trade case against China at the World Trade Organization, alleging unfair subsidies for exports of cars and auto parts.

The case comes at a critical time in the U.S. presidential campaign, as auto manufacturing states in the upper Midwest like Michigan, Wisconsin and particularly Ohio have turned into crucial battlegrounds. But the case may not make any difference in terms of jobs for many months, as WTO cases typically take a year and a half before a final decision is reached, and sometimes longer.

Hours after news of the American move began to circulate, but before the trade case was actually filed in Beijing, China's commerce ministry announced in a statement on its website that it was filing its own WTO case against the United States, alleging unfairness in how the United States calculates the penalty tariffs in anti-subsidy cases.

The Chinese action appeared to be coincidental, as the Chinese government seldom responds quickly to trade actions — indeed, the Chinese commerce ministry statement made no mention of the American action. The ministry had no response all day to questions relayed by phone and fax in the morning about the American action.

The case brought by the United States on Monday is the latest sign of a greater willingness by Western governments to confront China. The American action on trade comes just 11 days after the European Union agreed to start the world's largest anti-dumping action ever, against imports of solar panels from China.

President Barack Obama planned to talk about the move Monday during a visit to Ohio, a place where the president is trying to capitalize on his bailout of the auto industry in 2009. A poll by NBC News, The Wall Street Journal and Marist College last week showed Obama building a significant lead over the Republican challenger, Mitt Romney, in Ohio.

In its WTO filing, the United States accuses China of providing at least \$1 billion worth of subsidies from 2009 to 2011 for worldwide exports of cars and auto parts.

While \$1 billion may sound like a large number, Chinese exports of automobiles and auto parts totaled \$56 billion during this period, according to Chinese customs data. So even if China were forced by the WTO to reverse the subsidies, the effect on Chinese exporters' total costs might not be significant.

While China exports virtually no fully assembled cars to the United States, it has rapidly expanded exports to developing countries, and those exports compete to some extent with cars exported from or designed in the United States.

Ohio has suffered heavily from job losses that have coincided with surging imports of auto parts from China. Auto parts employment in the United States has dropped by about one-half from 2001 to 2010, as imports from China grew nearly sevenfold over the same period, according to data provided by the senior administration official.

## Proposed quota for women in boardrooms is at risk

LONDON — A planned European Union law to impose penalties on companies that do not allocate 40 percent of the seats on their boards to women has drawn enough opposition from Britain and other countries to face being blocked before it is officially proposed.

Nine EU countries have signed a letter to the European Commission, the bloc's executive agency, opposing the proposed law, which is scheduled to be published in draft form next month.

The proposal has been championed by Viviane Reding, vice president of the commission, who has been pressing European companies since last year to improve the representation of women in top management or risk being penalized.

The signatories argue that although barriers to success for women in EU companies are "unacceptable," national governments should determine what sanctions should be applied to companies that fail to improve.

Under EU voting rules, the proposed law requires the support of a weighted majority of member states in a system based broadly on the size of a country. The opposition of the nine countries that signed the letter could therefore be sufficient to scuttle the proposal.

—Stephen Castle, The New York Times

## In India, maverick chief minister may bring down coalition

KOLKATA, India — When Mamata Banerjee, a 5-foot-tall dynamo in flip-flops, finally defeated the Communists last year after decades of misrule here, she became one of the most powerful but unpredictable politicians in India. Now the country is left to guess whether she will announce Tuesday that she intends to try to pull down India's governing coalition.

Banerjee is the chief minister of West Bengal, a state more populous than Germany, and she leads a regional party with 19 ministers in parliament, a crucial bloc of votes for the governing United Progressive Alliance. Indeed, she is so influential that Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton paid her a special visit on a recent trip to India, a highly unusual honor for any regional leader.

On Thursday and Friday, the government pushed through several sweeping policy changes, including one that would allow Wal-Mart and Ikea to set up shop in India. Banerjee has repeatedly opposed plans to open India up to more competition. She is in some ways more leftist than the Communists she replaced.

—Gardiner Harris, The New York Times

## Restore Our Future spending \$1.5 million on Romney ads

Mitt Romney may have had a difficult time in the polls in recent weeks, but he still has supporters who are bullish about his chances in some states that President Barack Obama won handily in 2008.

Restore Our Future, a super PAC that supports Romney, the Republican presidential candidate, is investing \$1.5 million in advertising in Michigan and Wisconsin, according to a media buyer who monitors spending in battleground states.

The investment suggests that for all the advantages Obama has had coming out of the nominating conventions, Romney can rely on one clear advantage over Democrats: outside groups with much more money to spend supporting his candidacy and tactically placing their bets in states where they believe he has a chance to win.

Restore Our Future's \$720,000 investment in Michigan is particularly remarkable. Romney's campaign and other allies seemed to have all but given up on the state, even though the candidate grew up there and his father, George Romney, was once its governor. The Romney campaign itself, which is running state-specific advertisements in states it apparently considers to be the most in play, left Michigan off that list.

—Sarah Wheaton, The New York Times

# Shell delays arctic oil drilling until next year

By Clifford Krauss  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HOUSTON — With the prospect of rich new oil fields in tantalizing reach, Shell Oil announced on Monday that it was forced to put off exploration in the Alaskan Arctic for yet another year after a spill containment dome was damaged during a testing accident.

While the company will perform preliminary work this year on several wells in the region, it will not be able to drill for oil until next summer at the earliest.

The latest setback in Shell's six-year, \$4.5 billion effort to drill off the coast of Alaska heartened environmentalists, who have opposed the drilling program at every turn.

Some suggested that Shell's inability to control its containment equipment in calm waters under predictable test conditions suggested that the company would

not be able to effectively stop a sudden leak in treacherous Arctic waters, when powerful ice floes and gusty winds would complicate any spill response.

But the company received a shot of encouragement from the Obama administration, which defended Shell's efforts and expressed the desire to continue working with the company to open the Arctic for drilling next year.

Shell expected to receive all the necessary permits to drill up to five wells this summer and fall, but equipment problems and persistent sea ice forced the company to cut back its program repeatedly.

"It's a disappointment that this particular system is not ready yet," Marvin E. Odum, the president of Shell Oil, said in an interview. "We've made the call that we are better off not drilling in hydrocarbons this year."

It was the third year in a row

that Royal Dutch Shell, the parent company, was frustrated in one of its most ambitious global endeavors.

In 2010, the disastrous BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico stalled its efforts to win regulatory approval. In 2011, delays in getting final approval for an air quality permit forced the company to delay drilling.

This year, the company won almost all the regulatory approvals it needed. It recently began drilling pilot holes, and it hoped to drill at least one or two exploratory wells into deep zones that could hold oil and gas by the end of October.

The Alaskan Arctic is one of the great untapped frontiers for offshore drilling in the United States. Energy experts say the Arctic seas could produce up to 1 million barrels of oil a day, roughly equivalent to 10 percent of current domestic production.

### WEATHER

## Unsettled weather ahead

By Allison A. Wing  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

An amplifying upper level trough and the remnants of a subtropical low from the Gulf of Mexico will combine to bring breezy and rainy conditions to our region over the next two days. As the system approaches today, rain showers will develop. The passage of a warm front will keep temperatures nearly steady overnight tonight with rain showers and thunderstorms

throughout the evening into tomorrow morning. The rain could be heavy at times, so urban flooding is a distinct possibility. A strong southerly low level jet ahead of the approaching cold front will cause gusty winds. There is disagreement between the models regarding how quickly the front will move offshore, but it looks like most of the rain will stop by mid-morning tomorrow. Later in the week, seasonably cool temperatures are expected.

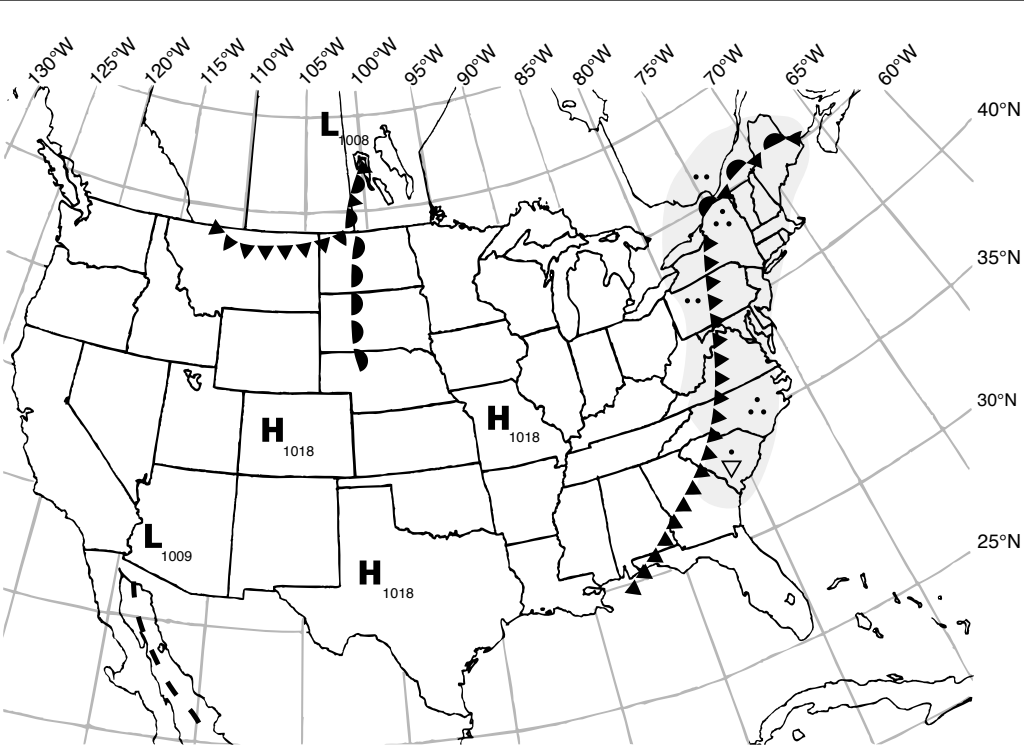
### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Increasing clouds with afternoon showers. High 72°F (22°C). South winds at 10-15 mph gusting to 30 mph.

**Tonight:** Cloudy and breezy with rain showers and thunderstorms. Low 71°F (22°C). South winds at 17-20 mph gusting to 40 mph.

**Tomorrow:** Mostly cloudy and breezy with morning showers. High 72°F (22°C). Low 53°F (12°C). Southwest winds shifting to from the northwest, at 10-15 mph gusting to 30 mph.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny. High 67°F (18°C). Low 52°F (11°C). Northeast winds at 8-12 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Tuesday, September 18, 2012

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
		Snow	Rain	
<b>H</b> High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Rain	Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light	Light	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Moderate	Moderate	Haze
	Stationary Front	Heavy	Heavy	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech



# ADs should be warmly welcomed

## Must work together to make the position meaningful for dorms

RLADs, from Page 4

in RLA, and these four staff worked with all the undergraduate dormitories. The AD is an evolution of existing support systems, not a new system built from scratch. For example, Next House has had both a Next House RLA and a Next House Director in recent years. Our suggestions on the time commitment, support roles, RBA implementation, and other topics have all shaped our AD's role. In addition, Chancellor Grimson stated in *The Tech* on June 8, 2012 that the dorms that were concerned about having an AD during the first year of the program would be given the "opportunity to collect residents' opinions and present them to Division of Student Life (DSL) staff during the first few months of the fall term," effectively giving them the option to defer.

### The ADs declined interviews with *The Tech*.

There is nothing improper about the ADs declining interview requests from a widely circulated newspaper within three weeks of their arrival on campus. In fact, it is perfectly reasonable to defer interviews to DSL until the ADs are familiar with the MIT culture.

### The implementation has created more suspicion than support.

We disagree, as Next House has warmly welcomed our AD, and we have been jointly developing the position into one that is most meaningful for the dorm.

We must also remember that support goes both ways. How can our residents ask ADs for support if we don't support them? The editorial last Friday questioned the legitimacy of their selection process, and, as a result, the AD's intentions to first-and-foremost provide care and support for the residents were lost in their plethora of arguments. We hope students will avoid simplistic judgments (such as the AD strictly pursuing "a great opportunity for career advancement") and instead focus more on supporting their passion for assisting students as we welcome them to our MIT community.

### Concluding Notes

We do not claim the AD process has been perfect; we wish this process had started in the spring when we were on campus, and we wish there had been more student involvement in the decision to create ADs. However, we believe that the process shows clear signs of improvement in student interaction with the administration. Students were involved

in the interview process, students have input on how the job works in their respective dorms, and the position was created as an improved support system for students. The AD role should be a big improvement to student support, but students and the administration must continue to work collaboratively to shape it.

Relevant dorm governments and engaged students should brainstorm the role of ADs and ways the ADs can aid Executive Boards, housemasters, GRTs, and residents. All parties should work together to customize a new support system for the residents, while trusting and welcoming ADs to their respective communities. Next has been happy with the process. We have a great AD who is actively engaging with residents and leadership.

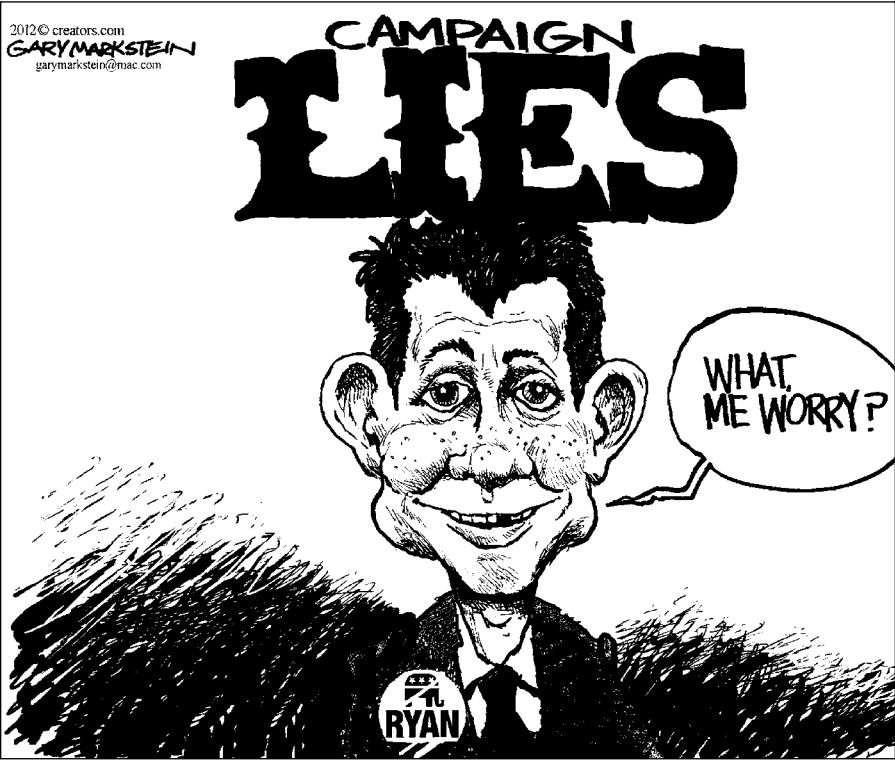
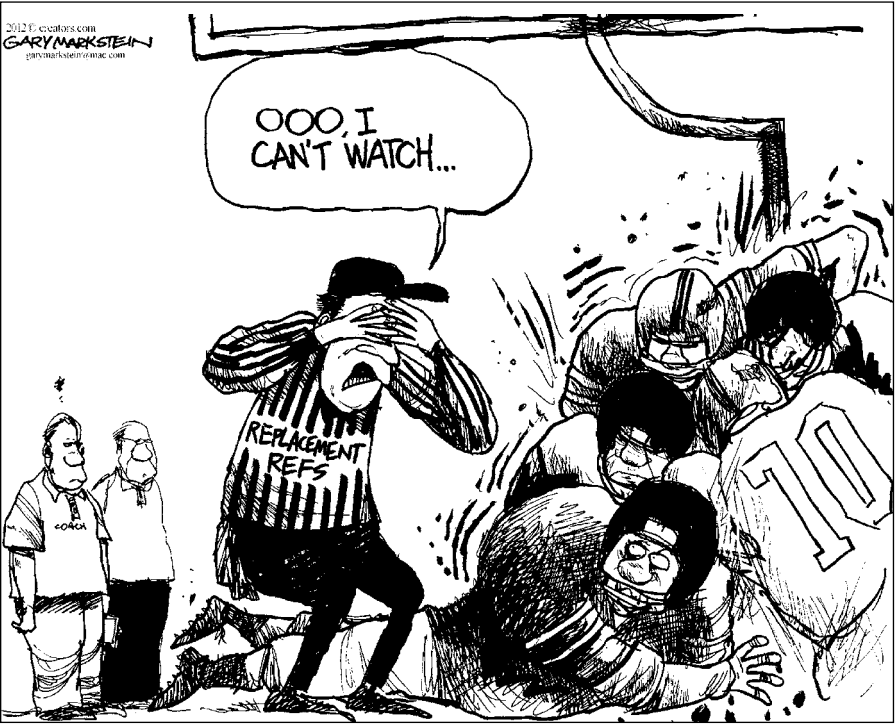
As the editorial has pointed out, Chancellor Grimson has called to improve trust and rebuild collaborative spirit. We should continue to respect and uphold this goal from the student side as we incorporate the ADs, a group of talented and supportive individuals who are enthusiastic about their roles and ready to become a helpful part of our undergraduate community.

Austin D. Brinson '13 is the current president of Next House. Alec C. Lai '13 was the president last year.

**Editor's Note:** In this letter, Alec Lai and Austin Brinson misleadingly suggest that *The Tech's* editorial maligned the character of the RLADs. The letter reads "We hope students will avoid simplistic judgments (such as the AD strictly pursuing 'a great opportunity for career advancement') and instead focus more on supporting their passion for assisting students as we welcome them to our MIT community."

However, the original context for the quote from *The Tech's* August 31 editorial is the following:

"That being said, let's be clear: the RLADs did not make any policy decisions, and they did not ask for any controversy. They simply took advantage of a great opportunity for career advancement and to work at an incredible, world-class institution. They're part of our community now, and they deserve to be treated with the same dignity and respect as any other community member. Students should engage positively with RLADs and should go to them for advice and support, if they want to."



Have humorous commentary about a campus topic?  
Send 500 words and a pic to [cl@tech.mit.edu](mailto:cl@tech.mit.edu).



# Peer2Peer Network

## Email based student support system

Peer2Peer, from Page 1

Peer2Peer will begin operating "as soon as possible," said Waldheter. The development team expects this to be next semester. Wagner and Lubin, both former Nightline volunteers, have been working with staff from all across campus to create a new peer-based support program since the closing of Nightline in 2010.

**Peer2Peer will limit the amount of users to just MIT students and therefore facilitate quick responses.**

"We've met with people from the Division of Student Life, from Student Support Services, from housing, from Mental and Medical, really people all across the board. ... Whatever service we get out of this is going to be fully backed by everyone. It's going to be the brainchild of so many different people," said Lubin.

Nightline, which began running in 1978, operated from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and received calls dealing with "everything from roommate troubles to serious calls involving rape, depression, and suicide," according to an article published on the

Division of Student Life (DSL) website. The program was shut down due to a lack of traffic from MIT students and too much usage from outside of MIT. According to the DSL website, Nightline was only receiving one to two calls per week from MIT students at the time of its closing. One benefit of Peer2Peer is that the system can require certificates or an MIT email address that will limit the amount of users to just MIT students and facilitate quick responses.

Prior to the development of the Peer2Peer program, MIT had announced it would contract with a national email-based service, Student SPILL. SPILL has been used at several schools nationwide, including the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Wisconsin, according to Fernandes. However, the students and administrators behind the planning of the new peer support program decided not to contract with Student SPILL after changes were made to the business model. "The company is no longer going to be focused on serving college students and is changing their focus to general wellness," said Lubin. The development team instead decided to create a unique service.

Wagner hopes this program will address MIT's specific needs in terms of peer-to-peer support. "It's exciting to make something that is ours that we can really tailor to MIT's needs," she said.



ELIJAH MENA—THE TECH

Josh Knowles, singer and violinist from the folk rock band "Nemes," performed last Friday evening at Fred Fest V. Fred Fest is an annual outdoor concert held at East Campus and co-sponsored by WMBR.



## The 2012 Ig Nobel Informal Lectures

Sat., Sept. 22nd  
1:00 pm, 10-250

In which the 2012 Ig Nobel Prize winners will attempt to explain what they did, and why they did it.

Plus, appearances by previous winners and a special musical performance by "KEROMIN," the Amazing FROGS. Please join us, it's free!

For more information:  
[web.mit.edu/bookstore/www](http://web.mit.edu/bookstore/www)



All Ig Nobel Prize activities are organized by the *Annals of Improbable Research*. This free event is organized in cooperation with the MIT Press Bookstore.



## THE COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS AT MIT GRANTS PROGRAM



**NEXT DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2012**

All current MIT students, staff and faculty are invited to apply for grants to support art related projects.

[arts.mit.edu/participate/grants](http://arts.mit.edu/participate/grants)

Photo Credit: Maxwell's Dream © Andy Ryan

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**MMAP AND THE MORTGAGE CRISIS**  
*Supporting Open-ended Quantitative Analysis  
On Big Datasets*



**Wednesday, September 19th, 2012** | 6:30PM - 7:30PM



Location: **Room 32-155**



Food will be an assortment from **ABP**



Enter raffle to win **Nexus 7!**



# Sorority women no longer allowed to be rush girls

## Panhel conforms to Unanimous Agreement X in attempt to preserve single-sex status of sororities

Rush girls, from Page 1

and women’s activities in order to maintain the single-sex status of sororities. MIT adopted the policy as a recommendation from the NPC, which came into effect during this Rush period.

This policy received full support from each sorority and was voted into effect in November 2011 by 26 national delegates representing each of the sororities of the NPC, six of which are represented at MIT. These 26 delegates are voted into the national committee by different processes based on the sorority.

In a correspondence between Robert and two NPC representatives Emily Ruch and Nicki Mene-

ley, the NPC stated that sororities and fraternities would lose their single-sex status, and potentially their spot on campus, if sororities did not adopt the UA X. In their email response to Robert, the NPC executives cited the Supreme Court case, *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*, as one of the many that could potentially remove sororities from campus life if they did not strictly adhere to single-sex status rules.

A number of brothers who went through Rush in previous years believe that this policy change had a significant impact on the Rush process. According to Robert, usually half of his fraternity’s events involve just the brothers and prospects, while others include a

large number of Rush girls. Because of the new policy, Phi Sigma Kappa had to redesign their Rush structure. “We lost about 65 percent of our Rush girls,” said Robert. “It made Rush more difficult because we had to work around the [lack of] sorority girls.”

At the same time, a number of freshmen didn’t feel negatively impacted by the newly instituted UA X. “I had way too much fun at all the Rush events,” said Alex X. Chen ’16, who recently pledged to Pi Lambda Phi.

During formal Rush events, the sorority sisters are not allowed to be at fraternity houses. According to Robert, many of the brothers feel strongly about the new policy. To challenge the policy, Robert, some

brothers from Phi Sigma Kappa, and some affiliated and unaffiliated women are designing a survey that will poll MIT students’ opinions on the matter. However, they wish to make clear that this is not a battle of MIT fraternities against MIT sororities. It is “us against a rule without purpose, never against anyone at MIT,” clarified Robert.

“Personally, I don’t think them helping out with our Rush is going to threaten their sorority’s single-sex status,” he continued.

Lauren M. Allen ’13 — vice president of Recruitment for the MIT Panhellenic Association (Panhel) and a member of Kappa Alpha Theta — defended the UA X: “If a men’s organization cannot select

their members based on their own interactions, why should women have to fill that role? The NPC has said that the controversy at hand is not an issue at many other schools.”

Both Thomas A. Anderson ’13, MIT’s Interfraternity Council president, and Sikka claim that no concerns, other than Robert’s, have been voiced to their respective committees.

No formal statistics have been released regarding the potential effect on the yield between this year and last year’s Rush periods. But only time will tell whether the UA X will continue to stir controversy or if it will become the norm as freshmen enter Rush with no knowledge of the change.



**Last Friday night, the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble held a free showing of the film *10 Things I Hate About You* on Kresge Lawn.** Students came equipped with snacks and blankets for fending off the cold while they watched the modern version of Shakespeare’s *Taming of the Shrew*.

01202	00514	20091	51413	09202	42209
19092	01419	01151	40301	13162	11919
05162	00513	02051	82120	15120	50118
14230	82514	19010	91920	08051	61201
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(3 of 3)

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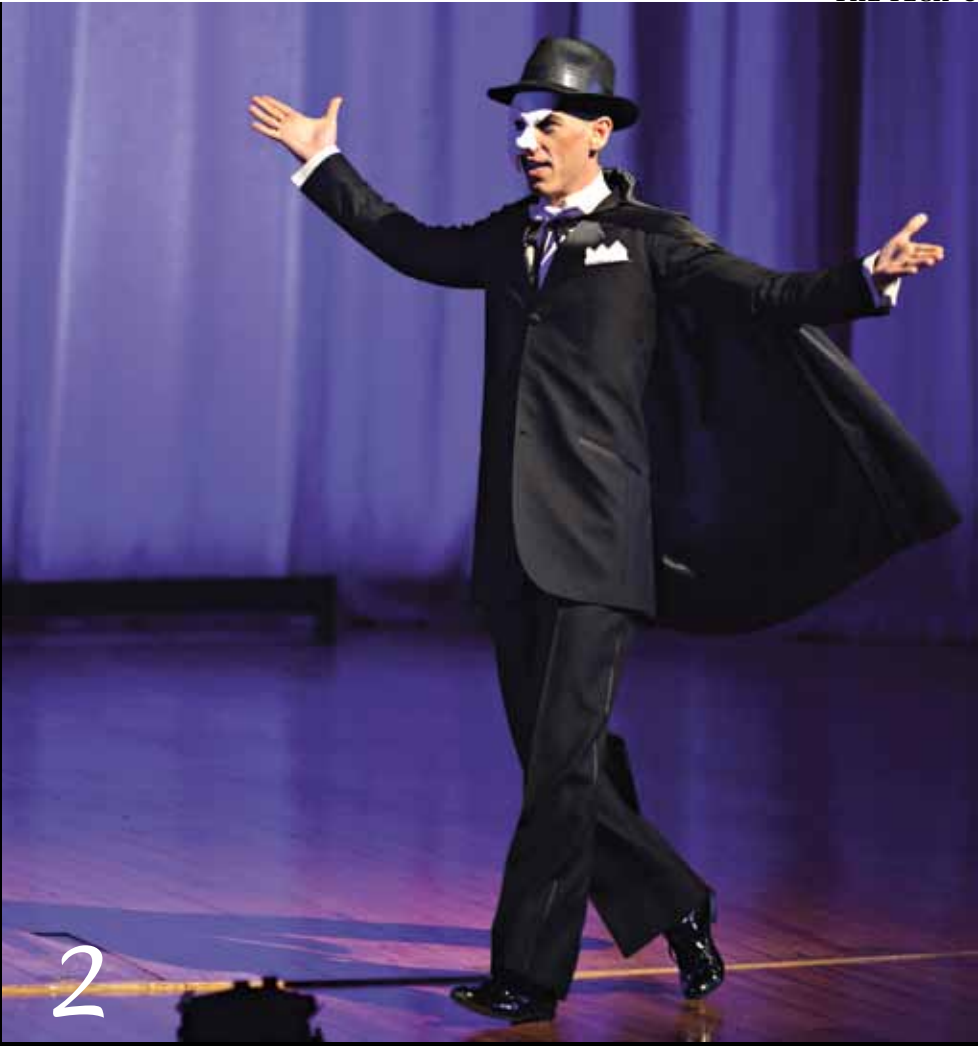
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# Dancing the night away

*Starring the MIT Ballroom Dance Team*



On Saturday night, members of the MIT Ballroom Dance Team gathered in Kresge Auditorium to perform their second annual dance concert. Elaborately costumed dancers took the stage, sometimes in pairs and sometimes in groups, to perform nearly 20 different numbers in styles including tango, waltz, cha-cha, and samba (the viral Korean hit “Oppa

Gangnam Style” even made an appearance). The MIT Ballroom Dance Team consists of MIT undergraduates, graduate students, and other MIT-affiliates. Members have been working on planning the concert since April. The concert also featured guest performances by the MIT Asian Dance Team and by MIT’s South Asian Fusion dance team, Chamak.

- 1. Jonathan Lyles and Esther Rheinbay perform a paso doble dance to the well-known Spanish instrumental piece, “España Cani.”
- 2. Jeff McCollum portrays The Phantom from *The Phantom of the Opera* in a dance to songs from the musical.
- 3. William Phan and May-Elise Martinsen perform “Spy Games,” a playful foxtrot accompanied by the *Pink Panther* theme.
- 4. MIT alumni Arthur Lue and Yiqun Bai perform “Libertango.”
- 5. Eric Nielsen lifts Mandi Davis in a dance to music from the game *The Legend of Zelda*.

PHOTOS BY EMILY KELLISON-LINN





LIFE  
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IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

Building houses, building communities

A Habitat for Humanity trip inspires a habit of volunteering

By Christine Lai

"You can do it!" one of my sorority sisters cheered as I awkwardly held the circular saw, which was already weighing my arm down. My task was to cut some pieces of wood for the framework of the house I was building for Habitat for Humanity. In my mind, I thought of all the things that could go horribly wrong.

"Line up the blade with the edge and move slowly," another student instructed me. I turned on the saw, but it unexpectedly jolted in my hand and made a piercing screech. I had not positioned the blade close enough to the wood. I immediately let go of the button.

I was about to hand the saw to another student, but the sister stopped me. "Try again, you can do it!" Her smile gave me more courage, and I tried again. This time, I steadied the saw and moved the blade through the wood.

I was so excited that I discovered I could use a saw properly, and I was even more

grateful that I had a sister who would not let me give up.

I began community service in high school because I wanted to get to know people, but in my small hometown, there were few people-oriented opportunities. Instead, I shelved books in my library and transported patient files in the hospital. However, at MIT, I was better able to realize my volunteering wishes.

At MIT, I was better able to realize my volunteering wishes.

As the first semester of my freshman year drew to a close, an older student in my sorority, Sandra Chen '12, introduced me to one of the many opportunities offered by MIT. An active member of Habitat for Humanity, she urged me to sign up for the Habitat spring break trip, telling me she thought I would find it surprisingly worthwhile. Having

no other plans for spring break and curious about the opportunity, I signed up, as did a number of other MIT students, including two friends from my sorority.

Oak Ridge lies 22 miles northwest of Knoxville, TN, and its enchanting grassy stretches of land belie its history as the home of the Manhattan Project, the research program that brought forth the atomic bomb. Moreover, the town resides in a county in which more than 4,000 people out of 75,000 are below the poverty line. That week, the other MIT students and I were to refurbish several houses in the town by painting, installing floorboards, cabinets, and more.

In the middle of my week of volunteering, the spring break trip participants and I were invited to dinner at a local church. "Spread out, each of you pick a table," a church member encouragingly told us. I sat down at a table already filled with three people. "We've been expecting you. Thank you so much for coming to us to help," said the elderly man across from me. When he said "us," the meaning of my trip hit me.

I was not just here to help build and refurbish houses for a few families. In a small way, I was helping this entire town. The people at my table also pointed out some locals in the room: the young girls who sang for charity, a church member who won the local award for most hours of service, and a schoolteacher, among other active town members. I realized I had not only traveled to a town in Tennessee, but also to a genuine community. Furthermore, being immersed in this community with two sorority sisters from my MIT community, who were always there to make me laugh and to encourage me, made the trip all the more meaningful.

This trip initiated my involvement in service at MIT, making service a part of my lifestyle instead of an occasional engagement. Looking back, I am grateful that Sandra shared with me her passion for service, because this trip gave me the motivation to create new service events for sorority women as the Panhel Community Service Chair in 2011. For me, volunteering has opened up an entire new chapter of my life at MIT.



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EVENTS

SEP. 18 – SEP. 24

TUESDAY

(5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) "The Power of the Crowdsourced Documentary" talk presented by Jigar Mehta — E14-663

WEDNESDAY

(9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) Inaugural Celebration Symposium: Infinite Innovation — Kresge Auditorium

(12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.) Welcome luncheon honoring President and Mrs. Reif — Building 50

THURSDAY

(4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.) The Price of Climate Risk talk by Robert Litterman — E51-115

(7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) Computer-Aided-Biology to Biology-Aided-Computers talk by Professor George Church — NE-30

FRIDAY

(2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Presidential Inauguration Ceremony — Killian Court

(7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.) LSC shows *The Five-Year Engagement* — 26-100

SATURDAY

(10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) Animal Petting Zoo — E55 courtyard

(1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) The 2012 Ig Informal Lectures at MIT — 10-250

SUNDAY

(3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) The Physics of the Kresge Organ, pre-concert lecture — Kresge

(4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) World Premiere of Kresge Organ Symphony by Leonardo Ciampa — Kresge


MONDAY

(5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) Writing Books for a Wider Audience — E52-600

(6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) RFID Event: What Technology Will Dominate Retail? — 32-155

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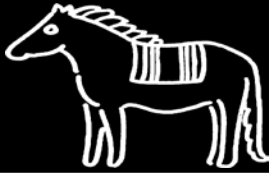
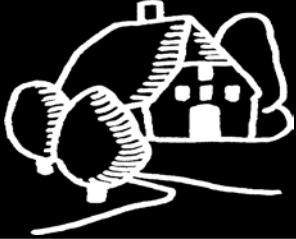
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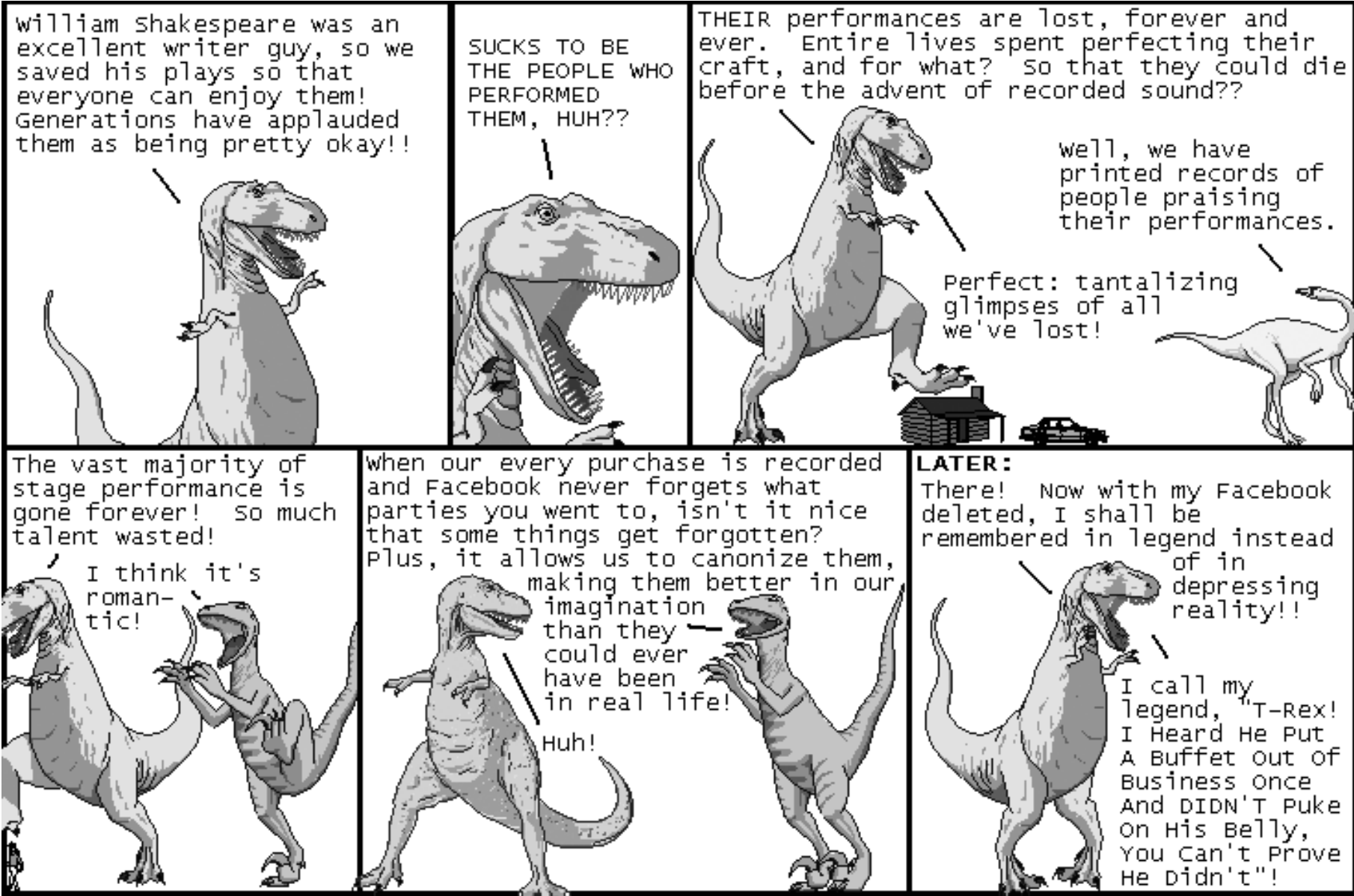
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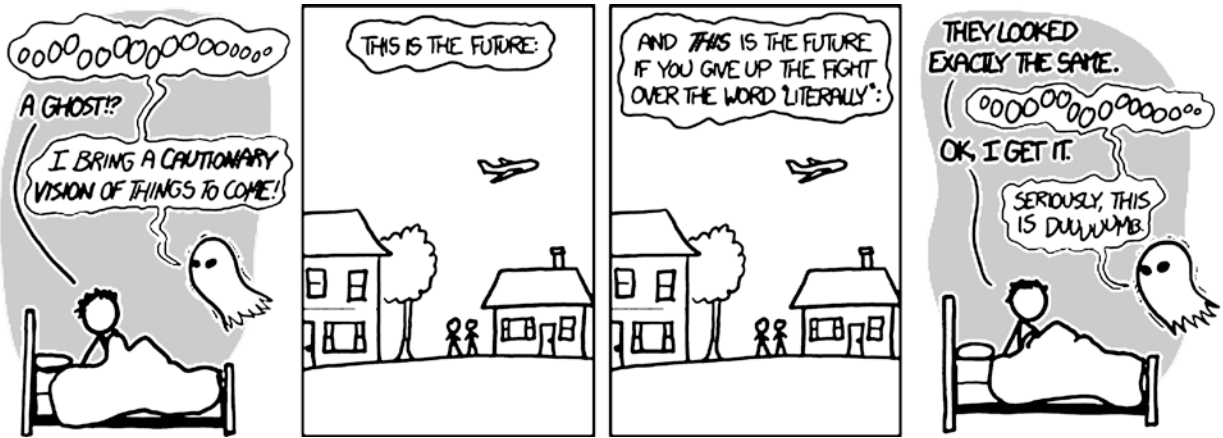
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***DINOSAUR COMICS***

by Ryan North



## [1108] Cautionary Ghost



But then the Ghost of Subjunctive Past showed up and told me to stay strong on 'if it were'.

## Saturday Stumper by Bruce R. Sutphin

Solution, page 14

## ACROSS

- |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 Bridge issues                | 46 Hapless hunter since the    | 8 More complete                |
| 9 Led the pack                 | '30s                           | 9 Sign of disuse               |
| 15 Precise                     | 48 Good __                     | 10 Not plugged in              |
| 16 Headset descriptor          | 49 Topping made in a mortar    | 11 Coasts                      |
| 17 Iroquois Nation group       | 50 Big name in cups            | 12 Hem                         |
| 18 Upon seeing it, John Muir's | 52 Contenders                  | 13 Accepts an invitation,      |
| "blood turned to wine"         | 54 Mentor                      | perhaps                        |
| 19 Private denial              | 55 Gunfight at the O.K. Corral | 14 Countertop fixtures         |
| 20 Spanish ayes                | screenwriter                   | 23 Eagle mascot of the 1984    |
| 21 Toaster opening             | 56 Spot-on                     | Summer Olympics                |
| 22 Barnes & Noble's NYSE       | 57 Pitching machine            | 26 Bogart played it by mail    |
| symbol                         | 58 Sound sources               | 27 Aftermath of service faults |
| 24 Spike with an eye           | 59 Ad lib                      | 29 With 44 Down, success for   |
| 25 Red state, formerly         |                                | 39 Down                        |
| 26 With 41 Across, rout        | <b>DOWN</b>                    | 30 Serve at                    |
| 28 2001 . . . astronaut        | 1 Pancake filler               | 31 Quattroporte builder        |
| 29 Chef's device               | 2 Almost all people have them  | 32 Rang                        |
| 31 Two-time role for Emma      | 3 University of Connecticut    | 33 Earliest                    |
| Thompson                       | home                           | 34 A lot of land               |
| 35 Their use is shocking       | 4 De Niro's wife in Meet the   | 37 Attribute                   |
| 36 Creator of The Newsroom     | Parents                        | 38 Trappings                   |
| for HBO                        | 5 Prolific Hungarian           | 39 Alley cats                  |
| 40 Trifling                    | mathematician                  | 42 Clover, e.g.                |
| 41 See 26 Across               | 6 "It'll be __!"               | 43 Laptop handle               |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14
15									16					
17									18					
19									20					
21						22		23		24				
25					26				27		28			
				29						30				
31	32	33	34						35					
36						37	38	39						
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46				47		48				49				
50					51		52		53					
54							55							
56							57							
58							59							

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 44 See 29 Down             | 49 Tapered tubes             |
| 45 Retired with difficulty | 51 Goes with                 |
| 47 Brought back            | 53 What Brits call a "diver" |





Solution, page 14

9		5		8				
	3							5
7	1		2		5			
1			6				8	7
	5	2		1		4	6	
8	7				3			2
			3		9		4	6
4							7	
				7		9		8

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

# Techdoku

Solution, page 14

1-			60x		
	240x				6
3		120x			3x
60x		18x		4	
			24x		5
20x			6x		

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

# Panhel says Recruitment went smoothly; bid rate unchanged

## Freshmen enjoy meeting Sororities and going through Recruitment process, 350 registered for first day

**Sorority recruitment**, from Page 1

rather than reading about them on paper. I really liked all the conversations and the house tours. I thought it was a good way to help you decide what you wanted to do."

One notable change is that in previous years, students had to go through a longer, four-day "active" recruitment process before bids were released, as opposed to three this year. Panhel shortened it by combining the original first and second days into one day of house tours. Also new, Pi Beta Phi members began living at their Memorial Drive house this year, which can hold up to 53 sisters.

"We've received a lot of positive

feedback from the individual chapters, their advisors, and the faculty and administration on the changes we implemented this year," said Panhel President Denzil Sikka '13.

In addition to shortening recruitment, Panhel also added an informational session for potential recruits to get a better feel for Greek life before the official start of recruitment.

Still, some freshmen found the process exhausting.

"Recruitment was long. You were talking to girls for six hours every day, so you'd come home with a dry throat," said Ava P. Soleimany '16.

Mary E. Wagner '16 agreed, "I might make the days a little shorter. I felt like the process was drawn out a bit from talking to too many people."

Initially, Soleimany was not interested in joining a sorority, but decided to attend the recruitment events after getting to know some of the women in sororities.

**'I felt like the process was drawn out from talking to too many people'**  
—Mary E. Wagner '16

"I did FLP [Freshman Leadership Program], and all the counselors were affiliated, so I really wanted to go through recruitment after I saw what kind of people they were," said Soleimany. "It just seemed like such

a big part of the culture here, so I wanted to be a part of that."

However, Clare H. Liu '16 chose not to participate in Recruitment, opting instead to attend other events during those days. "There were a lot of events going on at the same time," said Liu. "I like where I'm staying and the people I'm around at McCormick, so I wanted to keep my options open during freshman year."

According to Sikka, many of the sorority chapters are now larger than they were right before last year's seniors graduated.

"I think [Recruitment] ran very smoothly, and I'm very glad I was able to work with the Panhellenic Association and the FSILG administration to make that possible," said

Sikka.

Soleimany had some suggestions for future recruitment events.

"Allowing the girls to do more Rush events, scheduling-wise ... would be good. A lot of us wanted to, but we didn't have the time because of recruitment," said Soleimany. "I think giving an extra day between the end of recruitment and the start of class [would also be good]."

Now that classes have started, Bray is hoping that her sorority will provide the support system and community that attracted her to Greek life in the first place.

"I think it's especially important for freshmen, who have left home, to have a community away from your home," said Bray.

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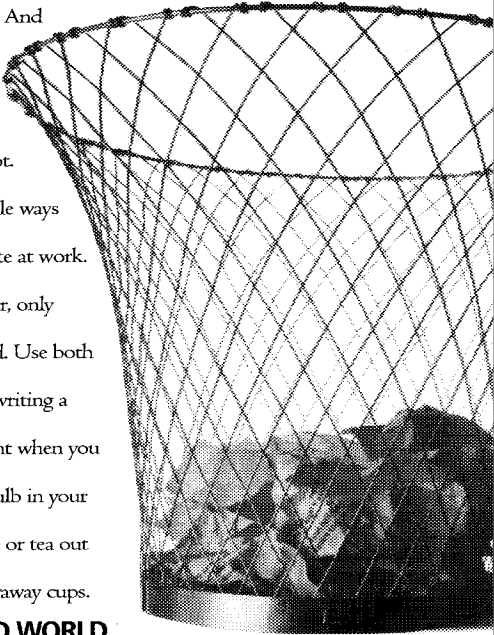


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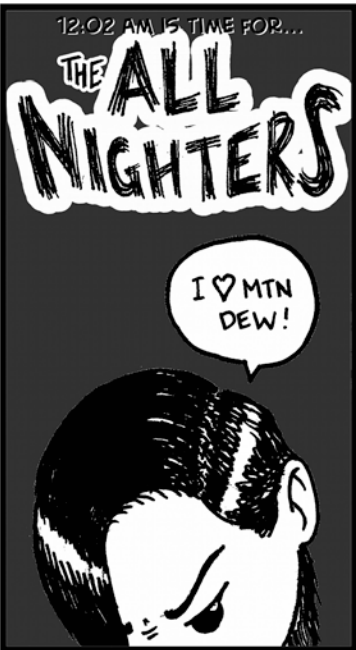
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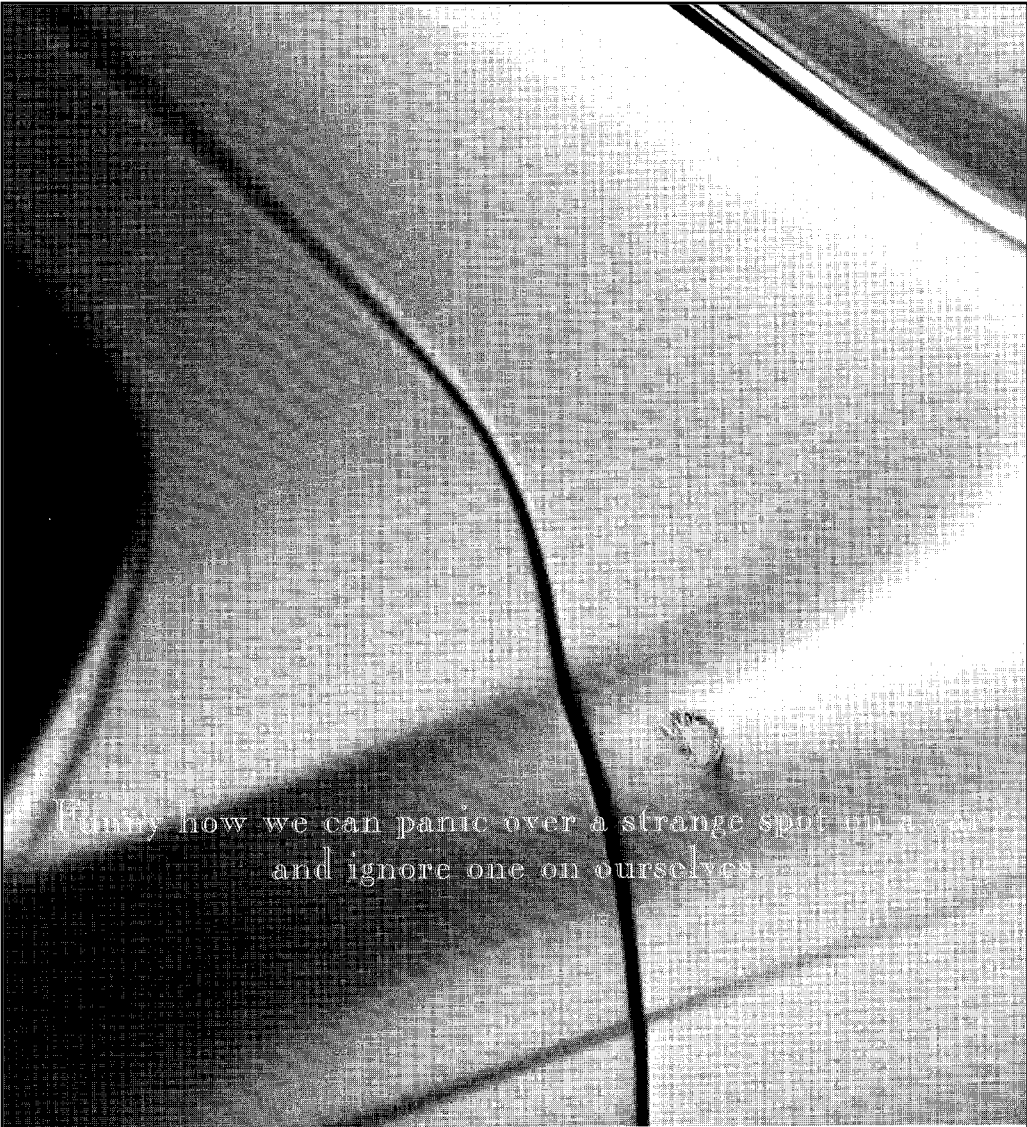


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# BC welcomes housemasters

## The McCants continue service to MIT undergrads

BC housemasters, from Page 1

but they declined for family reasons: "At some point it made sense to do something different for a while and have a neighborhood experience for our kids," Anne said.

But they always planned to return. In the ten years after Green Hall, Anne was a house fellow at Next House, where she ran a freshman advising program and was involved in other mentorship programs. This past spring, she mentioned to her family that a housemaster position had opened up in Burton-Conner. Bill and their two sons, Thomas, 22, a law student at Boston University, and James, 17, a senior at Belmont High School, were quick to say, "We will support you in doing this."

In the time period between applying for the position and receiving the appointment, Anne was asked "completely out of the blue" to be the director of Concourse, a first-year program for MIT freshmen that emphasizes smaller classes and the humanities. She accepted this position along with the Burton-Conner housemaster appointment after conferring with Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80 on the feasibility of taking on both positions. After accepting the positions, he then stepped down from her position as history department head, which she had held for six years.

Though their appointment letter officially sets the start date of the housemaster job as Sept. 1, the McCants have been working with the house management team since freshman orientation week and have already had a house team meeting.

"This dorm has fantastic GRTs. We have been so impressed," Anne said, referring to the dorm's graduate resident tu-

tors. They also stressed how invaluable an asset Michelle Lessly, the Burton-Conner residential life area director, was in their moving into their apartment over Labor Day weekend.

Though they are not quite done moving in, the McCants have hit the ground running. Last Saturday, Anne invited Burton-Conner resident volunteers over to their apartment to make meatballs and vegetarian bean balls for the spaghetti dinners she plans to have with each floor. Over the past couple weeks, they have been familiarizing themselves with the layout of the dorm and attending various floor study breaks.

The McCants believe in making their life experiences available to students. They see their position as housemasters as "an opportunity to be a role model, a mentor, an advisor, or a friend. To advocate for students when they need an advocate, and to hold them accountable when they need to be held accountable," according to Anne.

With regards to receiving feedback from students in the future, Anne said, "I think that if MIT students are unhappy about something we'll hear about it," a sentiment with which her husband concurred.

Anne, who loves to cook and bake, said, "I definitely want to be part of this Apple Bake I've heard so much about." She has ideas she would like to work on such as implementing a compost and gardening program, but she is open to students' suggestions as well.

The housemaster contract is initially for five years and will be up for renewal by mutual agreement each year thereafter. For now, the McCants are just happy to be back.

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## MIT Folk Dance Club

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### Solution to Crossword

from page 11

M	I	S	D	E	A	L	S		M	U	S	H	E	D
O	N	T	A	R	G	E	T		O	N	E	E	A	R
O	N	O	N	D	A	G	A		S	H	A	S	T	A
S	I	R	N	O	S	I	R		S	I	S	I	S	I
H	E	R	E	S		B	K	S		P	I	T	O	N
U	S	S	R		C	L	E	A	N		D	A	V	E
M	C	P	H	E	E									
A	A	R	O	N	S	O	R	K	I	N				
S	L	I	M		S	W	E	E	P					
E	L	M	E	R		E	G	G		P	E	S	T	O
R	E	E	S	E	S		A	L	L	E	G	E	R	S
A	D	V	I	S	E		L	E	O	N	U	R	I	S
T	O	A	T	E	E		I	R	O	N	M	I	K	E
I	N	L	E	T	S		A	S	N	E	E	D	E	D

### Solution to Techdoku

from page 12

6	1	2	3	5	4
2	3	4	5	1	6
3	4	5	6	2	1
5	6	1	2	4	3
1	2	3	4	6	5
4	5	6	1	3	2

### Solution to Sudoku

from page 12

9	2	5	4	8	6	7	3	1
6	3	4	7	9	1	8	2	5
7	1	8	2	3	5	6	9	4
1	4	9	6	5	2	3	8	7
3	5	2	8	1	7	4	6	9
8	7	6	9	4	3	5	1	2
5	8	7	3	2	9	1	4	6
4	9	1	5	6	8	2	7	3
2	6	3	1	7	4	9	5	8

It claims good people.

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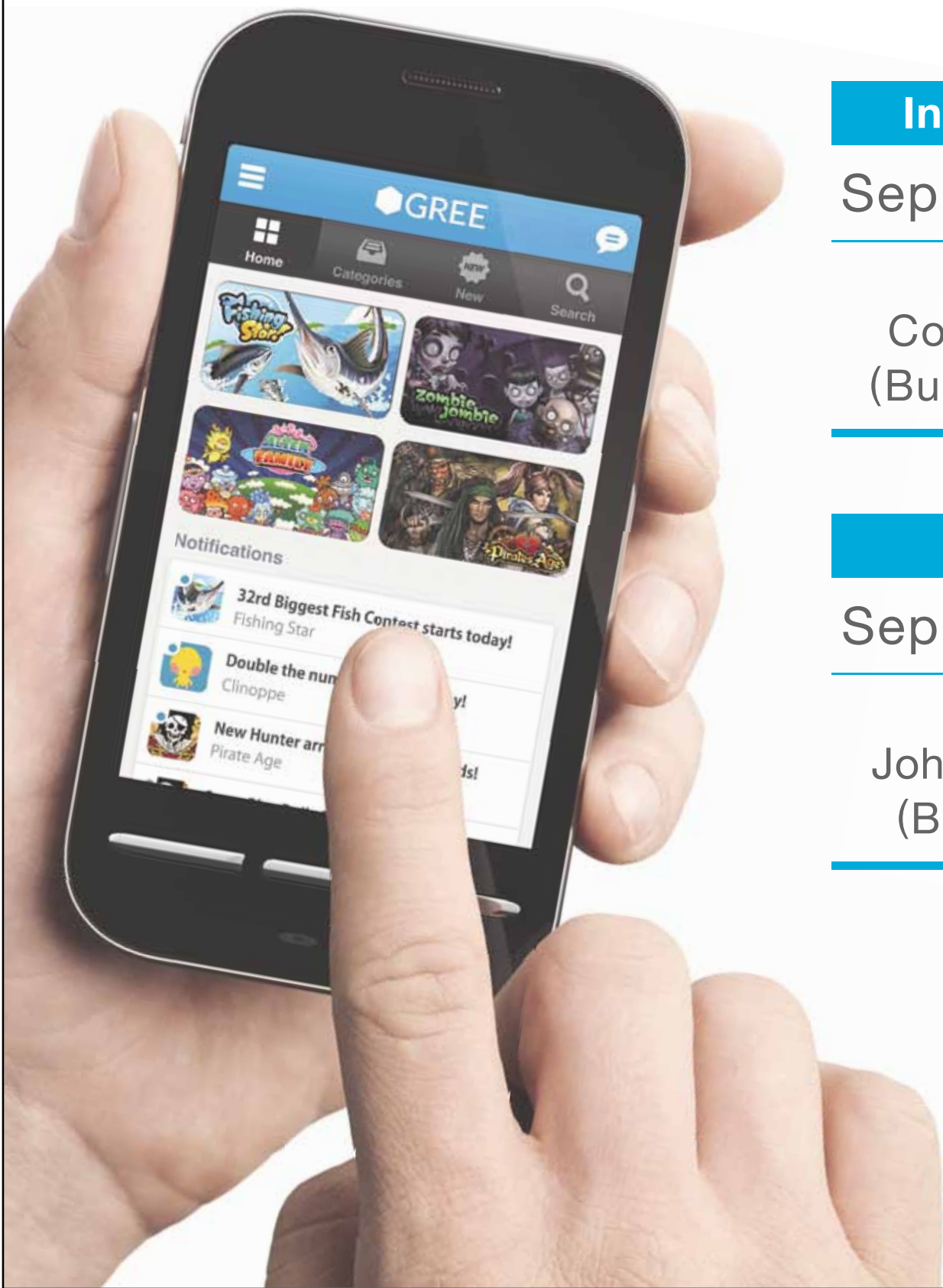
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Sep 21<sup>th</sup> [10:00 - 16:00]

**Venue**

Johnson Athletics Center  
(Building 34), 1st Floor



<http://gree.jp/r/39027/1?guid=ON>



